Michael Ankenmann:

2. Tax should increase no more than inflation. I advocate for a detailed review of spending across all Town budgets on a line-by-line basis, together with a comparison of budgets from 2020 with 2026 to identify areas of ballooning spending. We need to look at all Town services and evaluate whether they are giving good value to residents and where necessary adjust or eliminate them. I also propose a hiring freeze. This will allow us to explore consolidation of top tier positions by not replacing vacancies that occur. We should also do a review of departments that have seen increased staffing that may not be justified. A careful review of spending will allow us to find savings.

Together with increased tax revenue from the larger assessment base due to the new construction in Town, this should provide suU'icient funds to do what needs to be done, while managing affordability for residents.

I believe government should focus on handling its core responsibilities with excellence, not chasing new programs and spending. Government's success should be measured in better results achieved, not in more dollars spent.

3. Residents, at their doors, have repeatedly expressed their desire to preserve the rural character of Brunel Ward, specifically mentioning concerns about high density developments and preserving the historic farm fields. I share these concerns and want to protect the character of our community.

To start with, we have an official plan that describes how development should be managed in the rural areas. We should follow the plan. If the plan is outdated, we should develop a new plan that reflects the character we want the town to maintain, not make disconnected decisions on a case-by-case basis. We must carefully avoid drifting from our plan because of temporary pressures, which can lead to decisions that future generations will regret.

From my engineering background, I am also conscious of technical issues that need to be considered in approaching this issue, including water supply and well capacity, wastewater management, surface water management, impacts on streams, fire suppression, and traffic impacts.

As a guiding principle, we should be cautious and prioritize protecting the rural character of the rural areas, while allowing responsible homeowners to make reasonable modifications to their properties without undue planning department hassles.

4. Traffic calming measures depend on the type of road we're discussing. For Town roads and neighbourhoods, residents' preferences should be heavily weighted, particularly on urban residential streets. Our neighbourhoods should be safe for people to walk and bike, and for children to play, and there is no need for fast traffic movement in such areas. The best traffic calming options for such settings are context-specific and depend heavily on location, visibility, speed, and durability.

District Roads are arterial roads. These roads should have higher and more consistent speeds, so drivers can focus on driving without constantly changing speed limits. On these roads, it is important to maintain the safe and efficient flow of traffic.

Where there must be significant changes to speed limits between sections of road, illuminated signs that display your speed as you approach them (such as the sign when approaching Riverside School) are helpful traffic calming reminders. In areas of particular concern and persistent speeding, police enforcement also helps drive the point home.